



# TOWN OF LOS GATOS

S P R I N G 2 0 0 4

O U R C O M M U N I T Y N E W S L E T T E R

## Town of Los Gatos Mission Statement

To enhance the quality of life in Los Gatos by providing the highest quality leadership and most efficient services and facilities.

To provide a working environment which promotes excellence, fosters cooperation and meets the needs of the community, council, employees, board and commission members, and volunteers.

## Town Budget Outlook for FY 2004/05

Los Gatans value the high quality of life in their community, including the high quality of the services they have come to expect from their Town government. But the media is full of stories about budget cuts at the federal, state, and local levels. How will the economic climate affect your local services? For several years, revenue to the Town has not kept pace with the increasing cost of providing services. This, coupled with the State of California's budget shortfall and the ongoing local recession, creates a serious fiscal situation for the Town.

### The Challenge

The state is experiencing a significant budget problem – a revenue shortfall estimated at \$25 billion. To address this shortfall, state legislators have debated a variety of proposals that would financially hurt local governments, including the partial or complete elimination of the car tax backfill – a potential loss to the Town of up to \$1.2 million every year. Governor Schwarzenegger's January 2004 budget plan proposes to redirect \$400,000 of Town's property tax revenue to the state, and to redirect an additional amount from the Town's Redevelopment Agency. Although the recently approved Economic Recovery Bond Act (Proposition 57) is designed to fill the state's FY 2003/04 shortfall and a portion of the FY 2004/05 deficit, this relief is temporary and does not prevent the state from reducing Town revenue in future years.

At the same time, the economic downturn continues to affect the Town's major revenue sources, like sales tax, property tax, hotel/motel tax, interest income, and business license fees. Sales tax and property tax are the two largest

Town revenue sources and are crucial to paying for services such as public safety and library programs. Even so, the amount the Town receives is limited – for every 8 cents of sales tax paid on taxable sales made in Town, only 1 cent comes back to the Town. Likewise, for every 1 dollar of property tax paid by property owners in the Town, only 9.5 cents returns to the Town.

### Proactive Efforts

For the past three years, the Town has proactively addressed these budget challenges. Each year, a balanced budget has been passed by the Town Council. So far, the Town has been able to implement cost reductions with minimal service impacts on the community. These actions have included reducing operating expenditures, defunding authorized positions, implementing selected hiring freezes, and delaying the replacement of equipment where practical. Since FY 2000/01, \$3 million in cost reductions have been made to balance the Town's operating expenditures with its operating revenues.

Additionally, thanks to prudent fiscal planning the Town dedicated a portion of its surplus funds during the good times to street improvements and budget reserves. The Town currently has

\$10.9 million in General Fund reserves, of which \$3.7 million is held in the Town's Reserve for Economic Uncertainty. A conservative amount of these reserves could be used to temporarily "bridge" the Town's fiscal needs or to provide resources to implement new cost saving ideas or revenue enhancements.

### Strategies for the Future

While all of these proactive efforts have helped to mitigate the current budget challenges, projections for FY 2004/05 indicate a revenue shortfall of between \$1.5 million and \$3.2 million, or between 6% and 12% of the total budget. As a result, the Town is developing new cost reduction and revenue enhancement proposals to address the projected shortfall. This process is guided by three key principles: (1) managing in a fiscally responsible manner; (2) preserving Town services that are a priority to Town residents; and (3) working to lessen the impact of service reductions.

At the February 24, 2004 Town Council Budget Study Session, the Council discussed preliminary budget reduction proposals, described as Tier I and Tier II, and designed to address the range of

See **Budget Outlook**, page 2

## Senior Center News

The Los Gatos Senior Center is always bustling with activities. Located in the Neighborhood Center, 208 East Main Street, the Senior Center is the clearinghouse for information on all senior services and programs in Town. Following is just a sample of the activities planned for this spring and summer:

### Wednesday Movies

On the fourth Wednesday of each month, a top-rated movie is shown in the Neighborhood Center Lounge at 1:15 pm. Admission and snacks are free! On April 28 we'll feature "Under the Tuscan Sun," based on the autobiographical best seller by Frances Mayes. On May 26 it's the Academy Award-winning "Lost in Translation," set in modern cosmopolitan Tokyo. The movie program has just been donated a huge big-screen television, so that you can enjoy all your favorite actors at close to life-size! Join other film buffs and enjoy this fun afternoon activity.

### Spring Dance

A Spring Dance will be held May 20, at 6:30 pm, in the Large Hall of the Neighborhood Center. Live music will be

provided by the popular local group The Nob Hill Sounds, and light refreshments will be available. Admission is free, so mark your calendar now to join other lovers of good music and dancing.

### Haircuts

Thanks to the generosity of local stylists, free haircuts are available on a bi-monthly basis, by appointment only. Call the Senior Center now to make an appointment for the next scheduled haircut day, May 3. All haircuts are done at the Neighborhood Center.

### Flu Shots

A flu shot clinic will be held at the Neighborhood Center in September, on a date to be set by the Santa Clara County Health Department. These low-cost flu shots are very popular, so check the Senior Center section of the Town's website for an announcement of the date.

For more information on any Senior Center activity or service, call the Senior Center at (408) 354-1514. Or, visit the Town's website, at [www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov), click on "Town Services & Departments," then choose "Senior Center" in the Community Services area.

## Inside...

News Views .....	2
Community Garage Sale .....	2
2004 State of the Town Address.....	3
Street Sweeping Program .....	4
Capital Improvements Around Town.....	5
"Keep Los Gatos Beautiful" Month .....	5
Administrative Citation Policy .....	5
Third Annual Town-Wide Read .....	6
Kids' Time at the Library .....	6
Summer Fun .....	6
A Brief History of Los Gatos Pageants ..	7
Colon Cancer Screening .....	7
Talk Back .....	7
Calendar of Events .....	8



The *Town of Los Gatos Vista* is published by the Town of Los Gatos Community Services Department. Your comments are welcome.

Send your comments to:

Town of Los Gatos Vista  
Attn: Community Services Director  
PO Box 949  
Los Gatos, CA 95031

(408) 354-6820

[community@losgatosca.gov](mailto:community@losgatosca.gov)

## News Views

### New Web Address

The Town's website has a new address: **[www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov)**. The .gov domain is used exclusively by government agencies, and many towns and cities are adopting this format for their web addresses. Email addresses for all Town Council members and Town staff have also changed, replacing the current **[@town.los-gatos.ca.us](mailto:@town.los-gatos.ca.us)** after each person's name with the new **[@losgatosca.gov](mailto:@losgatosca.gov)**.

### What's New! Email Delivery Service



You can subscribe to receive an email when the "What's New!" section of the Town's website has been updated. To subscribe, go to the Town's website, **[www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov)**, and click on "Click here to subscribe to the What's New! Email Delivery Service," then follow the directions.

### Hillside Development Standards

Hillside Development Standards and Guidelines were adopted by the Town Council in February to protect our

hillside areas. All new hillside homes, including pending applications that were not complete prior to adoption of the new standards, and major additions and remodels of existing hillside homes, must comply with the new standards and guidelines. For more information, contact the Community Development Department at (408) 354-6872.

### Rental Dispute Resolution

New Rental Dispute Resolution Regulations were adopted by the Town Council in March. These regulations aim to prevent excessive and unreasonable rent increases, and assure landlords a fair and reasonable return on the value of their property. These regulations apply to rental properties of three or more units located within Town limits. For more information about rental dispute resolution regulations, visit the Town's website at **[www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov)**, click on "Town Services & Departments," then choose "Rental Dispute Resolution Program" in the Community Services area. Or, call Project Sentinel, the Town's impartial mediation service, at (408) 402-0307.

### Animal Control Services

Effective July 1, the City of San Jose will be providing animal control services for residents of Los Gatos. Through June 30,

residents can continue to request animal control services through the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department, at (408) 354-8600. Beginning July 1, the contact will be the City of San Jose, at a phone number to be announced in future bulletins, and on the Town's website, **[www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov)**.

### Volunteers Needed

Many thanks to all those individuals whose collective activities make our town more beautiful. If you or your organization is interested in volunteering for beautification programs, such as adopting a trail, park, pathway, or favorite corner, please contact Mary Gillespie-Greenberg, Parks and Public Works Department, at (408) 399-5776.

### New Community Pool

The new Los Gatos High School Community Aquatic Center will be opening this June. Due to Town contributions to this great project, the pool will be available for open recreational swim times. This summer, open swim will be each Tuesday through Thursday, 1:30 to 3:15 pm, from July 6 through August 13. The pool will also be used for swim classes through Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education and Recreation. For details, see the Recreation Department's website, **[www.lgsrecreation.org](http://www.lgsrecreation.org)**.

## Community Garage Sale

Spring is in the air, days are getting longer, and your garage is overdue for a cleaning! Lucky for you, it is also time for the Community Garage Sale. This is your chance to clean out your garage, attic, and closets and keep those valuable items from going into the landfill. This year's sale will be held Saturday, May 15, from 9 am to 4 pm. It is anticipated that more than 300 individual and group sales will be held throughout Los Gatos and Monte Sereno, making it a shoppers' paradise!

How does the Community Garage Sale work? Residents of Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and the unincorporated areas of the two cities register to hold garage sales at their homes, or join with neighbors to hold block sales. The Town promotes all registered sales through press releases, newspaper and radio ads, flyers, and posters. Then, residents hold their garage sales on May 15. You choose the spot, we buy the ads, you keep the cash – it's that easy!

This annual event is a partnership between the Town of Los Gatos, the City of Monte Sereno, and the Santa Clara County Recycling and Waste Reduction Program. It is a great way of bringing solid waste and recycling issues right into people's homes, with an emphasis on reuse and giving rather than throwing away.

To register or to learn more about the Community Garage Sale, call the Town's

Recycling Coordinator, Lauren Mende Tacké, at (408) 399-5796. Or, visit the Town's website at **[www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov)**, and click on "What's New!" Online registration is now available for your convenience, and registration is free. The deadline to register is May 1.

If you'd like to participate in the Community Garage Sale as a shopper, look for the sale location map in the May 12 edition of the *Los Gatos Weekly Times*. For more detailed information on sale addresses, cross streets, and items for sale, pick up a copy of the "Shoppers Guide," available at a variety of Los Gatos and Monte Sereno locations on May 12.

A list of sale addresses will also be available on the Town website, **[www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov)**.

If you have any unsalable items to dispose of, the Spring Cleanup trash pickup will be held during the weeks following the Garage Sale event. Green Valley Disposal Company will provide the details in their Spring Cleanup flyer, arriving soon in your mailbox.



## Budget Outlook, from page 1

projected shortfall of between \$1.5 million and \$3.2 million. The proposals included service level reductions, operational expenditure reductions, and new revenue opportunities. Council members congratulated Town staff for its prudent fiscal management approach and directed staff to continue its planning efforts in preparation for the FY 2004/05 budget.

### Service Impacts on the Community

Though cost reductions in past years were made with minimal service impact, the magnitude of the continuing economic challenge makes it likely that the proposals considered for FY 2004/05 will affect services provided to the community. Possible scenarios include a reduction in library hours and services,

increases in police response time to non-emergency calls, deferred park and tree maintenance, and delays in public works projects such as street resurfacing. With an understanding of the significance of these service reductions to Los Gatos residents, the Town will minimize community impacts wherever possible. All service reductions will be implemented in order of least community impact to greatest community impact.

### Looking Ahead

The FY 2004/05 Operating, Redevelopment, and Capital Improvement Budgets is scheduled to be considered by the Town Council at a public hearing to be held on Monday, May 17, 2004, at 6 pm, in the Town Council Chambers, 110 East Main Street. The agenda will be available in advance of the meeting on the Town's

website, **[www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov)**. All residents are encouraged to attend and participate. For those who can not attend, the meeting will be broadcast live on KCAT, cable channel 15; and videotapes of the meeting will be available at the Library, in the Reference section, for checkout.

Although the economic forecast remains uncertain due to the local economic downturn and the state's fiscal difficulties, the Town continues to develop contingency plans to address its future budget challenges. The Town will work with residents to identify cost-effective service delivery options and revenue opportunities to balance community needs with the fiscal reality. The Town's priority will continue to be to preserve the high quality of life residents, businesses, and visitors enjoy.



# 2004 State of the Town Address

## Doing Good Things In Tough Times

Delivered by Mayor Steve Glickman on February 9, 2004

Good evening. Honored guests, Council members, Town staff, and fellow residents of the Town of Los Gatos. I am Mayor Steve Glickman, and I am pleased to present the 2004 State of the Town.

In 1859, Charles Dickens began his *Tale of Two Cities* by saying, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” In 2004, in the state capital, fiscally it is the worst of times. The State of California currently has a projected \$25 billion budget deficit.

In our Town of Los Gatos, it is not the best of times fiscally either. We face challenges in that area, but we have many assets, many strengths, many things for which to be thankful, and many things of which to be proud.

- I will tell you about the budget challenges, and how we will meet them.
- I will remind us of our community strengths, and how we will preserve and enhance them.
- And I will tell you about our goals for this year.

### Our Challenges

Let me begin with the Town budget and our current challenges:

Financially, our Town remains on solid ground, yet we continue to be challenged by the recession and its effects on local revenues, and by the uncertainty associated with the state budget crisis.

Why do I say that? We remain on solid ground during these fiscally tough times because we were prudent during the good times – rather than spending our excess revenue like the state did, the Town dedicated a portion of its surplus to reserves, which currently total \$10.9 million, of which \$3.7 million is uncommitted in our Fund for Economic Uncertainty. We also used about \$11 million of the surplus to make long term investments in the community’s infrastructure – such as our roads, bridges, and sidewalks.

Yet, we are experiencing fiscal challenges as a result of the slow economy over the last few years. Impacts of the continuing recession have weakened the Town’s General Fund revenues - specifically in our economically sensitive revenues like sales tax, property tax, interest income, business license fees, hotel/motel tax, franchise fees, and vehicle license registration fees – otherwise known as the “car tax.”

On top of this local economic challenge is the state budget crisis. Right now, the state is considering taking some or all of local governments’ car tax revenue. For the Town, this could mean a loss of up to \$1.2 million.

The Town’s property tax revenue is also in jeopardy – a potential takeaway of \$400,000 is being proposed by the state in its latest budget plan. This is significant as the Town only receives 9.5 cents per every dollar of property tax paid by local residents.



Since 2001, when the signs of the “dot com” bust were beginning to appear, the Town made operating expense reductions totaling nearly \$3 million. We did this through expenditure slowdowns, selective hiring freezes, and operational efficiencies.

Although these responsible efforts have helped us to contain costs, the cumulative effect of the recession combined with possible state budget takeaways will likely require deeper cuts in our budget.

Today, our projections for FY 2004/05, which begins July 1, indicate we are short \$1.5 million, assuming no state takeaways. If there are state takeaways, we are facing a revenue reduction of as much as \$3.2 million annually. That represents about 12% of our \$24 million budget.

To address this challenge, the Town is developing two budget reduction plans – one at 6% and one at 12%. The Council will discuss these scenarios at a special study session on Monday, February 24.

### Impact on the Community

What does this mean for the Los Gatos community? Although these plans are still evolving, it is likely that the proposals to be considered will impact community services. For example, a reduction in library hours and service, increases in police response time to non-emergency calls, deferred park and tree maintenance, and delays in public works projects such as street resurfacing. These service reductions would occur as a result of reductions in our major expense areas. We are in the service business, and labor is by far our greatest expenditure. We will be looking at layoffs and further reductions in supplies, materials, training, and overtime.

We are also looking for new revenue opportunities, such as ensuring that the fees we charge for development services are based on cost recovery from the developer, rather than being subsidized by the general public.

The real challenge is predicting the depth and duration of the current economic downturn and the impacts on local government due to the state’s fiscal difficulties. If they are temporary, then it is appropriate to use some combination of year-end savings and part of our reserves to bridge us over the downturn. That is, after all, one of the purposes of our reserves: to keep our Town running smoothly. But if these changes to the fiscal picture are more permanent in nature, then it is not wise to spend down our reserves just to postpone the inevitable. In that case, we must

restructure the services we provide to align with the revenue we receive. We have seen the problems our state got into, going from an ample surplus to a deep deficit in an attempt to “bridge the brownouts.”

In the coming weeks, the Council and staff will be carefully reviewing our financial position, and choosing a course that balances our desires with our fiscal reality. The study session on February 24 will be the Council’s first opportunity to discuss budget balancing alternatives and recommendations for FY 2004/05.

Those are the challenges. We will meet them. As we do, we will also continue to enjoy our community’s strengths and advantages.

### Doing Good Things in Tough Times – Using Our Strengths

#### Redevelopment

One of our more significant community strengths is the Town’s Redevelopment Agency, which was formed after the 1989 earthquake, to repair the downtown. Although some of these funds may also be in jeopardy due to state takeaways, to date the agency has enabled the Town to complete much needed downtown street improvements and to renovate Town Plaza Park.

The advantage of having a Redevelopment Agency is that all of the increase in property tax from that area goes to our town and to local schools, unlike the bulk of our local property tax, which is distributed among many entities including the state.

The property tax increment must be spent in the Redevelopment Area – in our case, the downtown. And it can only be spent on public works, capital projects, and economic vitality – not on maintenance or operating expenditures.

One final important fact is that 20% of redevelopment money must be spent on providing affordable housing, which may be outside the Redevelopment Area. Some of our recent affordable housing projects include the Habitat for Humanity home, and the completion of a low-income senior group home through a partnership with Project Match. The Town of Los Gatos is committed to

See **Town Address**, page 4

Visit the Town of Los Gatos website at  
[www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov)



# Town Address, from page 3

providing affordable housing in our community, as part of our fair share for the region.

Los Gatos continues to be a desired destination for people to live, work, and shop. We have our small town charm, lively downtown, rich history, friendly residential neighborhoods, great schools, beautiful setting, and convenient location. We will continue to enjoy these assets, and we will continue to preserve and enhance them. As just one example, the Town Council recently

adopted a comprehensive set of standards and guidelines to protect our beautiful hillsides.

Our need to increase revenue to pay for local services, to promote the vitality of our local businesses, and to preserve and enhance our assets brings me to the first of our goals for the coming year:

## Economic Vitality and Marketing the Town

In partnership with our local merchants, our hotels, restaurants, wineries, car dealers, realtors, and the Chamber of Commerce, the Town is going to step up efforts to strengthen our economic base. We're going to do this by encouraging people to shop, dine, and stay in Los Gatos. One of the major sources of our Town's revenue is sales tax. Our Town gets a penny of every taxable dollar spent in town.

First, we will remind the Los Gatos community to "Shop Los Gatos." Whether buying a car, or a tank of gas for that car, we will encourage Los Gatos residents to buy it in Los Gatos.

Next, we want to encourage our neighbors in the region to shop and dine in Los Gatos, and to discover the unique qualities of our charming town. An important source of revenue I mentioned earlier is the hotel/motel tax. So we'd also like to encourage visitors from throughout Northern California (and beyond) to make Los Gatos their destination, and to plan their overnight stay here. This will help our Town's finances, support our local merchants, and keep our Town's economic base strong.

Another step is to encourage homebuyers to consider buying a home in Los Gatos. We know that our town is a wonderful place to live, and we think that home-buyers will agree. This will also help the Town's finances, as a share of any increase in property taxes comes back to the local government to support local services.

To further this goal, I will meet regularly with our local realtors. They are our most direct link to both current, and potential new, residents. Positive or negative, I want to know what the realtors are hearing.

We will pull through these challenging economic times because we are a community and we will pull together.

## Strengthening our Youth

Another goal for the next year focuses on our young people. Our young people are one of our greatest assets.

Their actions, their abilities, and their hard work make our schools, our teams, and our town the envy of all who know us. They are one of the main reasons our town is such a desirable place to live and raise families. We all derive a tangible and significant benefit from their positive reputation.

Our focus on youth includes the following specific goals:

- More recreational facilities, for team sports like soccer, and for individual sports like skating.
- Better communication and increased involvement between our young citizens and their Town.
- Building better partnerships between

our young people and our public safety department.

As a first step towards more recreational facilities, the Town Council has directed staff to study land that the Town owns near our Public Works facility on Miles Avenue, and report on how it could be used for skateboarding and other sports. We have been trying to identify such a site for a long time, and the Town Council just took a major step in that direction.

To enhance communication and civic involvement, the Town Council intends to create a Youth Commission. The role of all of our Town commissions, like our Parks Commission, or our Planning Commission, is to be the direct connection between Town government and the people of the town. Each Town commission focuses on a specific area of interest. The members of the Youth Commission will be young residents of our town. They will focus on youth-oriented issues, and will be the spokespersons for their peers.

The voices that advocate for our young people must be the voices of our young people.

To work on building better partnerships between our kids and our cops, I will suggest assigning Police Chief Scott Seaman to be responsible for liaison with the Youth Commission. If you see young people wave at a passing Los Gatos police car, because they recognize the officer, then we will have achieved a step toward that goal.

These efforts on behalf of Los Gatos youth recognize how important they are to the future of Los Gatos. I am reminded of that as I walk across the campus of Fisher Middle School every morning, where I teach a computer class. I know that anyone who walks through that sea of over a thousand of our kids, will share my joy at being with them, and my pride at having such great kids in my town.

## Conclusion

In 1974, President Ronald Reagan quoting Pilgrim John Winthrop in 1630, spoke of "A Shining City Upon A Hill."

In 2004, Los Gatos is a Shining Town in the Foothills, a gem of a traditional small town in the heart of the modern Wonder of the World known as Silicon Valley. We are very fortunate to live here, and I am very honored to be your Mayor.

Our Town's finances are strong, and are well and prudently managed. Our streets are safe and well maintained. Our schools are safe and deservedly well renowned. Our Town staff is professional, competent, and courteous. Our traditions are strong and well preserved. Our assets, like our thriving downtown, our historic areas, our strong neighborhoods, and our beautiful surroundings, are valued and well protected. Our senior citizens, and our young citizens, are honored, respected, and well served. Our goal is that they, and all our citizens, be even better served.

That is my goal as your Mayor, and that is the standard by which I will be judged. The state of our town is strong. We have challenges which we will meet. We have joys which we will share. And we will do these things together.

Thank you and good night.

# Street Sweeping Program

The Parks and Public Works Department gets a lot of questions about the Street Sweeper machine, and about the street sweeping program – so for all of you who have similar questions, here is your opportunity to have them answered!

The Town has one Street Sweeper, which operates five days a week to remove debris, including leaves and litter, from roads. It also sweeps streets in Monte Sereno, for several days once each quarter. It takes the Street Sweeper three weeks to sweep all of the one hundred miles of streets and twelve parking lots in town.

The street sweeping program is intended to sweep up the leaves that fall naturally onto the roadway, so that they and any litter don't clog storm drains. It is part of the regular preventative maintenance program for the Town's underground storm drain system.

## Disposing of Yard Waste

Street sweeping is not intended to be the principal way to dispose of yard waste. All yard waste should be disposed of through Green Valley Disposal Company's yard waste collection service, in the bins provided by Green Valley. For more information about this service, or for a yard waste bin, call Green Valley at (408) 354-2100. Please do not allow leaves and other yard waste to be blown into the street to leave for the sweeper. The Street Sweeper does not have the capacity to collect large piles of leaves. Anyone who places a pile of yard waste in the roadway may receive a notice requesting it be removed.

You can assist the street sweeping program by clearing leaves from the curb and gutter in front of your house after storms. Please sweep up these leaves from the roadway and dispose of them in your yard waste bin.

For more information on the street sweeping program, including the sweeping schedule, call the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5770.



The Town Street Sweeper keeps our streets clean.



# Capital Improvements Around Town

## Fairview Plaza Improvements

The Town's smallest and oldest park, Fairview Plaza, was the focus of a recent series of improvements. Located off Pennsylvania Avenue on a quiet cul-de-sac, the small park received new irrigation, lighting, landscaping, and walkways. Town staff worked with the neighborhood to determine the landscaping preferred by most residents. The outcome is a new look for this small park and many thank you letters to our staff.

## Safe Routes to Schools

The Town was recently awarded over \$300,000 through the state Safe Routes to Schools grant program. This program seeks to reduce childhood injuries and fatalities, and to encourage increased walking and bicycling among students. The grant funds will be used to install new sidewalks in four locations that serve Los Gatos schools: the west side of Los Gatos Boulevard, south of Louise Van Meter School; the east side of Los Gatos Boulevard, south of Shannon Road; the south side of Roberts Road, between Fisher and George Streets; and the east

side of Winchester Boulevard, between Farley and Vineland Avenues. Work will begin in the summer of 2004. These new sidewalks will provide for a separation of pedestrians and vehicles along these roadways, and improve the safety of school children who walk to school along these routes.

For more information on capital improvements in Los Gatos, visit the Town's website, at [www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov), click on "Town Services & Departments," then choose "Capital Improvement Program" in the Parks and Public Works area.

# April is "Keep Los Gatos Beautiful" Month

April is Keep Los Gatos Beautiful Month! The Town plans a series of events and programs each April to celebrate National Earth Day, National Arbor Day, and National Volunteer Recognition Week, which all occur during the month of April. Celebrating these events gives the Town an opportunity to educate residents about the importance of protecting, restoring, and preserving our local environment – and it also provides an opportunity to celebrate volunteerism, which plays such a vital role in maintaining and improving the quality of life in Los Gatos.

Keep Los Gatos Beautiful activities are sponsored by the Town, and funded in part through a state beverage container grant. Please help celebrate our beautiful community by participating in "Keep Los Gatos Beautiful" events.

## Volunteers Needed

This year's "Keep Los Gatos Beautiful" activities range from cleaning up the yards of local senior citizens, to beautifying the Los Gatos Creek Trail, to Adopt-a-Park trail



projects. For more information about specific projects, or to volunteer your time, contact the Town's Recycling Coordinator, Lauren Mende Tacké, at (408) 399-5796, or via email at [ltacke@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ltacke@losgatosca.gov). You can also find information about "Keep Los Gatos Beautiful" on the Town's website, [www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov), under "What's New!"

If you can not volunteer this April, but are interested in future volunteer opportunities, please contact the Town's Volunteer Coordinator, Susan Buxton, at (408) 354-6824. We invite you to get involved and celebrate the Los Gatos community!

## Recycling Containers

A great way to celebrate Keep Los Gatos Beautiful month is to take advantage of the new recycling containers in the Library and in many of our local parks. You can help keep our town free of litter and reduce your impact on our natural resources at the same time. For more information about recycling at home, visit the Green Valley Disposal Company's website at [www.greenvalley.com](http://www.greenvalley.com), and click on "Recycle."

# Administrative Citation Policy

The Town Council has adopted a new "Administrative Citation Policy," as a tool to enforce the requirements of the Town Code. Administrative code enforcement is a process of issuing citations and correction notices for violations of the Code, rather than using the criminal justice system as is currently done. This new policy will increase the efficiency, efficacy, and cost effectiveness of code enforcement. It will not change the cooperative manner in which the Town works with property owners to obtain compliance.

The Administrative Citation Policy will be implemented first in the Community Development Department's Code Compliance office, which enforces Town zoning and building codes. Next, it will be used by other Town departments responsible for ensuring compliance with the Town Code, including the Los Gatos – Monte Sereno Police Department and the Parks and Public Works Department.

## New Policy Benefits

The Town's past code enforcement efforts have successfully abated violations of the Town Code using the criminal justice system. However, under the current system, only a portion of the fines paid by violators goes to the Town, and then only upon conviction following a lengthy criminal proceeding. And, the Town cannot recover any of the costs incurred in investigating and prosecuting violations. Consequently, the average law-abiding Los Gatos resident subsidizes the cost of pursuing code violators. Also, because

violators are not immediately responsible for any of the costs associated with their actions, they have little if any incentive to comply with the Town Code.

Under the new system, Town staff will continue to work with violators to obtain compliance with the Town Code. But, when necessary, citations will be issued to those violators who must be compelled to comply with the Town Code. Any resulting fines, penalties, or other costs paid by the violator would help to offset the costs of enforcement.

## How will it work?

For the most part, enforcement methods will not change. Currently, where a violation can be corrected, the person responsible is given clear notice and a reasonable opportunity to comply with the law. However, if the condition is not corrected by the deadline, Town staff may now issue an administrative citation, which will require payment of a fine. This remedy is designed to address minor violations. The citation can be appealed, but an unsuccessful appellant may be required to pay all or part of the enforcement costs.

As an alternative, a correction notice may be issued. A correction notice would primarily be used for major code violations. A violator who fails to comply with a correction notice may, in addition to fines and penalties, be required to pay all or part of the enforcement costs. All violators are ultimately entitled to appeal to the court system.

## For More Information

Administrative code enforcement has been successfully implemented in a number of Bay Area cities, including San Jose, Santa Clara, Mountain View, Milpitas, and Palo Alto. Other cities are in the process of implementing similar systems.

We are committed to ensuring that our community is well-educated about the new Administrative Citation Policy. For more information, contact Bud Lortz, Director of Community Development, at (408) 354-6874; or Orry Korb, Town Attorney, at (408) 354-6880. Or, visit the Town's website at [www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov), click on "Town Services & Departments," and choose "Code Enforcement" in the Community Development and Building area.

# Be Sewer Smart!

Learn how to prevent sewer backups at the SewerSmart website: [www.sewersmart.org](http://www.sewersmart.org)



# Third Annual Town-Wide Read

The Third Annual Town-Wide Read will be held April 5 through May 14. This year, the selection is *The Bee Keeper's Apprentice*, by mystery writer Laurie King. You can pick up a copy of the book at the Library, 110 East Main Street; Los Gatos Coffee Roasting Company, 101 West Main Street; Peet's Coffee and Tea, 798 Blossom Hill Road; and Starbucks Coffee, 624 Blossom Hill Road. The books will be free to take home, read, and return for another person to read, or to pass on to a friend.

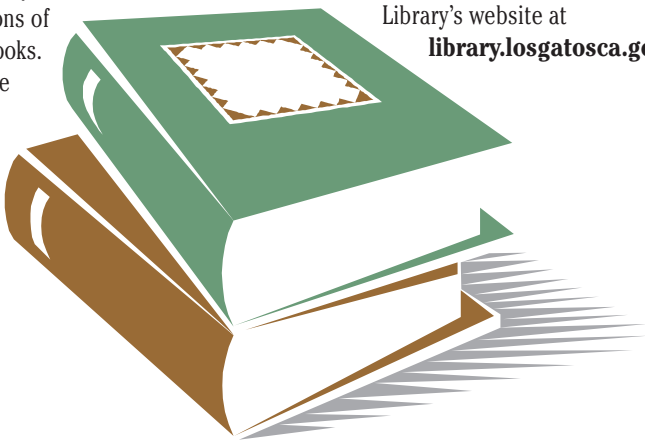
The Town-Wide Read will culminate with a special Friends of the Library Friday Forum. "A Conversation with Laurie King" will be held Friday, May 14, in the Town Council Chambers, 110 East Main Street. The program will begin at 7 pm with refreshments and socializing; the presentation will begin at 7:30 pm.

## Book Sales

The Friends of the Library sell used books in the foyer of the Library on a daily basis. The proceeds from these sales are used to fund library events such as the Town-Wide Read, Friends Friday Forums, and Children's Library programs. Some special sales are also held throughout the year, with large selections of great used books. The sales take

place in the lobby of the Town Council Chambers, 110 East Main Street, from 10 am to 2 pm. This summer, sales are planned for May 22, July 17, and September 18.

For more information about the Town-Wide Read, the Friends Friday Forums, or about any of the programs sponsored by the Friends of the Library, visit the Library's website at [library.losgatosca.gov](http://library.losgatosca.gov).



# Kids' Time at the Library

The Library hosts a varied program of activities for kids of all ages, funded by the Friends of the Library. All programs are held at the Library, 110 East Main Street, in the Children's Room. No advance reservation is required. For more information, call the Children's Librarian at (408) 354-6891, or visit the Library's website at [library.losgatosca.gov](http://library.losgatosca.gov), and click on "Kids' Page."



Please help us to offer satisfying programs for the children by honoring our suggested age range for each program. Of course, parents are encouraged to stay and enjoy along with their children.

## Story Time Schedule

Every week, the Library hosts the following story time programs:

### Mother Goose Story Time

Mondays at 10:30 am  
For ages 12 to 24 months.

### Pre-School Story Time

Tuesdays at 10:30 am  
For ages 3 to 5 years.

### Toddler Story Time

Wednesdays at 10:30 am  
For ages 2 to 3 years.

### Grandparents & Books

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 3 pm to 5 pm. All ages welcome.

## Fun Programs

The Library also hosts fun and educational programs for kids, ranging from clown antics to juggling to puppetry. This spring, the following programs are planned:

### Caricatures by Jodi Carr

Thursday, April 22, 3:30 pm  
For ages 12 and up.

### Eliot Fintushel presents Masks and Mimes

Thursday, May 13, 3:30 pm  
For ages 5 and up.

### Magician Gerald Joseph

Thursday, May 20, 7 pm  
For ages 4 and up.

To find out more about the Los Gatos Library and its programs, visit [library.losgatosca.gov](http://library.losgatosca.gov)

# Summer Fun

## Music in the Park

Sundays, June 27 through August 29  
5 to 7 pm  
Civic Center Lawn, 110 East Main Street

The annual Music in the Park free concert series presents a diverse program of music – popular acts from the past have included bluegrass, gospel, classical, big band, R&B, rock, jazz, light opera, oldies, and mariachi. This year's series will run from June 27 to August 29, with concerts each Sunday evening from 5 to 7 pm, and a special Fourth of July concert at 1:30 pm at Los Gatos High School. The August 15 concert will be held as part of Fiesta de Artes. For an updated listing of concert bands, visit the Town website at [www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov), and click on "What's New!" Music in the Park is produced by the Los Gatos Arts Commission and funded by local business and citizen contributions.



Come and experience a real Los Gatos tradition!

## Los Gatos Celebrates the 4th of July

Sunday, July 4, 11 am to 8:30 pm  
Civic Center Lawn, 110 East Main Street;  
Los Gatos High School Lawn,  
235 East Main Street

Come celebrate the 4th of July at this all day event, which begins with a picnic and games on the Civic Center lawn. Move to

the Los Gatos High School lawn to enjoy a special Music in the Park concert, featuring the San Jose Wind Symphony's presentation of patriotic selections, including real cannon fire, and many "pops" concert favorites. The concert will be followed by a free cake and ice cream social and an old fashioned sing-a-long at the Civic Center. Then, bingo and lemonade will be followed by a delicious BBQ dinner and dancing on the lawn. You won't want to miss this down-home, community celebration.

## Screen on the Green

Late summer or early fall  
Oak Meadow Park, 233 Blossom Hill Road

Screen on the Green will feature a free, family movie to be shown outdoors at Oak Meadow Park on a Friday evening. As more information becomes available, it will be posted on the Town website, [www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov).



# A Brief History of Los Gatos Pageants

Directly behind the current Civic Center, on the site of the 1886 Los Gatos Cooperative Winery, a natural amphitheater provided the setting for the Los Gatos Pageants, which ran for twelve consecutive summers, 1919 through 1930. The pageants were first conceived by Wilbur Hall, a Los Gatos writer and director, and he was joined by the hundreds of Los Gatans who participated in the shows each year. The first pageants were lighted by bonfires and flares, and the acoustics in the amphitheater were said to be remarkable. Rough pine planks supported by prune boxes constituted the seating arrangements.

*Keang Foo, the Exile*, presented in 1921, was an especially elaborate production. Wilbur Hall adapted this story from a classic Chinese tale, and Henry C. Crall, back from serving in the army in France, starred as the deposed prince. Nearly 500 people comprised the cast, and up to 5,000 spectators could be seated in “the bowl.” Members of the Chinese Delegation from San Francisco arrived “by machine” to see the show, and attended dinner afterwards at the elaborate Chinese-style home of author Ruth Comfort Mitchell and her husband, Sanborn Young.

After presentation of the *The Magic Lamp* in 1929 and *Gypsy Knight* in 1930, the pageants were suspended for the years of the Great Depression. But to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the incorporation of Los Gatos in 1887, a celebration was planned for August 1937. Ruth Comfort Mitchell wrote *Ten Episodes* to recall “the history and romance of the early days.” Although the organizers vowed that this production would be less expensive and simpler than pageants of the past, between 300 and 400 people appeared on stage. A parade was also held, and J. D. Hudson, a pageant committee member, was in



Lucy, Mary, and Bill Balch, in the 1921 pageant, Keang Foo, the Exile.

pursuit of “old-time vehicles, and particularly old-timers capable of piloting a team of slow moving oxen through the streets,” in commemoration of the thousands of board feet of redwood lumber pulled by oxen from the Santa Cruz Mountains in the 19th century, through the muddy streets of Los Gatos.

The *Pageant of the Hills* was presented in August 1941, with a story line concerning gold buried somewhere near the Rancho de Los Gatos, left by an early-day padre who was traveling by foot from Mission Santa Cruz to Mission Santa Clara. But soon, war news crowded every issue of the local newspapers. The devastating price of World War II had begun to come home, with the photos of young Los Gatans killed or missing in action on the front pages of many issues. The July 4, 1942 town picnic at Memorial Park, where Highway 17 now runs, was a “silent celebration,” with no firecrackers. Many felt perhaps no picnic should be given, due to current circumstances. On June 30, 1944, the *Los Gatos Times* reported that over 500 students from Los Gatos High School were serving in the war. War bond auctions and scrap metal drives became important events in the town.



Gilbert Becker as “the Viscount” (left) and Major Harold Johnson as “the Duke” (right), in the 1930 production of Gypsy Knight.

Two more pageants were given, *The Cats* in 1946 and *Dick Whittington’s Cat* in 1947, written by novelist Kathleen Norris. But the pageants were expensive, interest was waning, and times had changed. Some of the idealism of earlier days had faded, and after the war there was a harder edge to the news, both locally and nationally. One last pageant was given on the lawn in front of the high school in 1987, written by teacher Kathy Morgan in honor of the town’s 100th birthday.

• • •

If you would like to contribute to the Library’s “Hooked on History” project, you can send your check made payable to “Library Trust Fund - Digitize,” to Los Gatos Public Library, Attn: Hooked on History, 110 East Main Street, Los Gatos, CA, 95030. For more information on “Hooked on History,” see the Library website, [library.losgatosca.gov](http://library.losgatosca.gov).

## Colon Cancer Screening

Are you one of the many Americans age 50 and older who are not current on the exams needed to find colon cancer early? If so, you should talk to your doctor about scheduling a screening test. Colon cancer is more than 90% preventable. Regular screening can help to prevent colon cancer by removing polyps before they become cancerous and by detecting colon cancer in its early stages. If everybody age 50 and older had regular screening tests, at least one-third of deaths from this cancer could be avoided. Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths.

There are several different screening tests that can be used to find polyps or colon cancer. Your doctor can talk with you about which test is right for you and how often you should be tested. Many insurance plans and Medicare help pay for colon cancer screening tests. Because colon cancer is highly preventable, the American Cancer Society is undertaking a major information campaign to make the public aware of the importance of the screening tests. You can find more information about colon cancer screening at the Society website, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

## Talk Back...

We’d like to hear from you. Please send us your comments, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

Return to: Town Manager, Town of Los Gatos, P.O. Box 949, Los Gatos, CA, 95031/Fax to: (408) 354-8431/Email to: [manager@losgatosca.gov](mailto:manager@losgatosca.gov).

Calendar of Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
April 28	1:15 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
May 7	6 to 8 pm	Art in the Council Chambers reception	Council Chambers	(408) 354-6820
May 13	3:30 pm	Children's Library Program	Library	(408) 354-6891
May 14	7 pm	Friends Friday Forum	Council Chambers	(408) 354-6891
May 15	9 am to 4 pm	Community Garage Sale	Town-wide	(408) 399-5796
May 20	6:30 pm	Senior Spring Dance	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
May 20	7 pm	Children's Library Program	Library	(408) 354-6891
May 22	10 am to 2 pm	Friends of the Library Book Sale	Council Chambers	(408) 354-6891
May 26	1:15 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
June 27	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park concert	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
July 4	11 am to 8:30 pm	Los Gatos Celebrates the 4th of July	Civic Center, LGHS	(408) 354-6820
July 9	6 to 8 pm	Art in the Council Chambers reception	Council Chambers	(408) 354-6820
July 11	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park concert	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
July 16-18, 23-25, July 30-August 1	Evenings	Los Gatos Shakespeare Festival	Oak Meadow Park	(408) 996-0635
July 17	10 am to 2 pm	Friends of the Library Book Sale	Council Chambers	(408) 354-6891
July 18	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park concert	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
July 25	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park concert	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
August 1	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park concert	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
August 8	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park concert	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
August 14-15	10 am to 6 pm	Fiesta de Artes	Civic Center	(408) 354-6834
August 22	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park concert	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
August 29	5 to 7 pm	Music in the Park concert	Civic Center	(408) 354-6820
Late Summer	Evening	Screen on the Green	Oak Meadow Park	(408) 354-6832
September 18	10 am to 2 pm	Friends of the Library Book Sale	Council Chambers	(408) 354-6891
September 24	6 to 8 pm	Art in the Council Chambers reception	Council Chambers	(408) 354-6820

For a complete calendar of Town events, visit the Town website at [www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov), and click on "Calendar of Town Events."



OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Town of Los Gatos  
PO Box 949  
Los Gatos, CA 95031

PRSRT STD  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Los Gatos, CA 95030  
Permit #57

POSTAL CUSTOMER